

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1635

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 118

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: PEACE PEOPLE AGREE ON CONSTITUTION

REF: BELFAST 46

1. ABOUT 140 DELEGATES FROM LOCAL PEACE GROUPS IN NORTHERN IRELAND MET LAST WEEKEND APRIL 1-3 IN ENNISKILLEN IN FIRST "CONVENTION" SINCE MOVEMENT BEGAN LAST AUGUST. THERE WERE OBSERVERS FROM ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, WEST GERMANY AND NORWAY.

2. CONFERENCE DISCUSSED DRAFT CONSTITUTION. PROPOSED BY CIARAN MC KEOWN, ELECTED FINANCIAL TRUSTEES AND AD HOC EXECUTIVE, BOT INCLUDING MC KEOWN, BETTY WILLIAMS, MAIREAD CORRIGAN AND PETER MC LACHLAN AND AGREED TO CONVENE DELEGATES FROM ALL UNITS TWICE YEARLY. CONFERENCE DECIDED TO CALL ORGANIZATION "COMMUNITY OF PEACE PEOPLE." TWO MOST CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS OF CONFERENCE WERE THAT PEACE PEOPLE SHOULD CONSIDER; (A) VISITING PRISONS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH PARAMILITARY CONVICTS AND (B), VOLUNTEERING TO BE PRESENT DURING POLICE INTERROGATION OF SUSPECTS.

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3. ATMOSPHERE AT CONFERENCE RELAXED BY MOST ACCOUNTS. THERE SOME DISCUSSION OF FUNDS IN WHICH IT MADE CLEAR THAT THERE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS FOR BANKING AND DISBURSEMENT FOREIGN CONTRIBUTIONS. CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION GIVEN TO QUESTION OF ORGANIZING MOVEMENT IN SCHOOLS. THERE SOME 20 SCHOOL CHAPTERS IN BELFAST. OVERALL SIZE OF MOVEMENT GIVEN AS SEVEN TO EIGHT THOUSAND ACTIVE MEMBERS. CIARAN MC

KEOWN LESSENEO POTENTIAL ACUMONY BY ANNOUNCING HE WOULD
RETIRE FROM MOVEMENT IN AUTUMN 1978.SPICER

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